

SARAH D. LOWRIE'S SATURDAY EVENING TALK

Forgiveness Comes Only From a Thorough Understanding of the Offender and His Offense

HEARD something about forgiveness the other night at a dinner that was a revelation to me about the meaning of the act. A Judge told it as a story that happened to one of his associates on the bench. The man himself had helped in the affair, so to bring what had threatened to be irreparable wrong to a partially healed wrong.

This is what had happened: A prisoner was tried before a certain Judge and pleaded "not guilty," but the testimony was such, that the jury brought in the verdict of guilty. The Judge, finding that there were circumstances in the case that made a light rather than a heavy sentence just, sentenced him to four years instead of eight. But as he pronounced the sentence the prisoner turned on him and cursed him. Upon which breach of order the Judge changed his sentence to the maximum penalty and committed him for the whole term permitted by the law, eight years.

About a year later the Judge sought out his associate on the bench who confessed that he was most unhappy over what he had done for sheer anger, for however out of order the prisoner's reception of his leniency had been, his refusal for the angry words was not cruel and ethically unjust. He had it on his mind to go to the prisoner and to ask his forgiveness and then take steps to undo what he had done. It possible.

BOTH the Judges went down to the prison together and the one who had convicted the man went alone to his cell. When he came out he was badly very much moved, but he said nothing until after the trial, and outside the jail limits, and then as he regained his composure he told what had happened.

He said that the prisoner had sprung forward to meet him and before he could explain his visit thanked him for coming, saying as he wrung his hands: "Judge, it has been heavy on my soul that I cursed you. You gave me mercy in that judgment that you pronounced, and my return for that mercy was a curse. I came to myself later and I saw what you saw in the evidence. Everything pointed to my guilt, to you as well as to me, and you couldn't do anything else in common justice. I couldn't see that at the time. I thought you all didn't want to give me a show, prove that I hadn't done it. But I have thought it out since and I've often wanted to write and tell you."

Well, after that, of course, the Judge could not wait to confess his worst blunder in using his power when he was angry and in using it to injure a helpless man. So they had a very heart-to-heart talk and as a result the Judge became convinced that in spite of the evidence offered at the trial the man that he had sentenced was actually innocent and should not be in prison.

WE ALL know how difficult it is to reverse the wheels of justice by the law courts, so in this case, after a very thorough re-examination of all the circumstances, the case was put before the Governor and his next day he had never been committed got the man out of prison. The Judge saw it that so far as was possible his reparation of his own reversed judgment and a new start in life were publicly given the former prisoner. For himself the fact that he had in an hour of anger

degraded his power to use it for a personal revenge made him "go softly" all the rest of his days on the bench. So much for the facts! The hearing of them has made me "go wonderingly" ever since. It just happened that every where I turned the week after I heard the facts that Holy Week and Good Friday commemorated, joined them on to the facts of this story, until on Good Friday the first sentence that Christ uttered from the cross startled me as though I was hearing it for the first time.

"Father, forgive them! For they know not what they do." It struck me that that is what forgiveness is. Not just a crossing out of a wrong done by a just person looking down at a bankrupt fellow man, but the understanding of the man as part of the act of forgiveness.

I SUDDENLY realized that actually I have never been able to forgive a wrong that was done me, just off the bat without sympathy for the doer of the wrong. When I have done that kind of forgiving, it has been done in the light of "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." But I never want to see your face again! I've had a hateful time, and never actually digested the forgiveness. Well, there you are! It has not been for nothing that I have written this kind of moral ledgerman. The perfectly hateful thing that has been done I make disappear temporarily up my sleeve or under the table, while I tell you to my audience—God, the offender and myself—"There, you see, ladies and gentlemen, my heart is empty, quiet and empty of offense!"

THE only kind of forgiveness that I've ever been able to get away with for good and all is that which comes when I've been half in the wrong myself and half in the right, or when I could see that what had happened to provoke him had made what he had done seem natural to understand. In fact, just what that prisoner felt about the Judge when he came to himself—is the way I feel when I am honestly forgiven and actually forget. And so when I saw for the first time that our Lord's point of view was just that—forgiveness based on an understanding of the offender's plight—"Father forgive them," they know not what they do."—I had a great light on myself and the world.

One does not need to do evil in order to understand evil, but evidently you have imagination for the evil door before you can forgive him as he forgives, and that opens a whole vista.

Please Tell Me What to Do

'Bumio' Enjoyed 'Gumio's' Remarks Dear Cynthia—It was with pleasure indeed I read "Gumio's" definition of the flapper. Evidently "Gumio" has spent a terrible amount of time in getting those views. His ribbons and experience no doubt has done a lot to bring such wrath upon the flapper. He refers to the galoshes being worn by the flapper, and how about those ribbon-counters and trinket costs? Taking it all in all, I gather that nothing but the evening look in store windows, talk of the weather and howl being muffled, being too expensive.

He Doesn't Like Her Mother Dear Cynthia—I have been going with a girl for more than a year. She has a mother who has a very irritable temper. When she gets mad she simply won't listen to reason. She can speak a thousand words in a minute continually without stopping for air.

Harlequin styles are worn in shoes. We have slippers in two shades of gray, oxfords in tan and brown, pumps of black kid and gray, or white canvas trimmed with red.

Thinks "Kitten" is Original Dear Cynthia—I am one of the many interested in the "Kitten" case. I am also a fraternal member and I regret being unable to meet her. I am also a D. I agree that she's the kind we like.

Sends Ten Answers Dear Cynthia—After reading your column on April 15 kindly allow me a little space for a few lines to Disgusted With Men.

Paul and Virginia by HELENA HOYT GRANT Sour Grapes HER eyes fairly scintillated when Mr. Paul arrived home and she was in merry mood as he kissed her.

Deluded Wives by HAZEL DEYO BATCHELOR Judith Carlyle and Lucy Randolph were deluded wives because they both believed that in marriage a woman doesn't have to exert herself to hold her husband. When they discovered that both their husbands were interested in other women, they were surprised to find that they had been deluded.

What Rand Found LUCY was determined to wait at the studio until Carl's return, and Rand was as equally determined that she should not. He knew that for Lucy's own good it would be unwise for Carl to find her when he returned, and finally by showing her sympathy and making her understand that he at least was her friend, he persuaded her to let him take her home.

Read Your Character by Digby Phillips Selling the Variable Siant Suppose you're one of those tailors who consider a business with men who live out of town. You have their measurements, and every once in a while they write you for samples, and you send them and tell you to go ahead and make it.

Monday—Another Incident Where little strawberry forks are served with springs most favored fruit, these should be utilized to spear each berry before conveying it to the mouth. Strawberry forks are used when berries are served without cream. A small dish of sugar accompanies each serving.

How to Make It Given a small slumber pillow slip to be trimmed and some turtling—well, the turtling goes on the edge of it, the pillow slip being made in the fashion of the larger ones, and the border that this dainty trimming is supposed to be made of, is made of a material that is as pretty, too, as a red of the

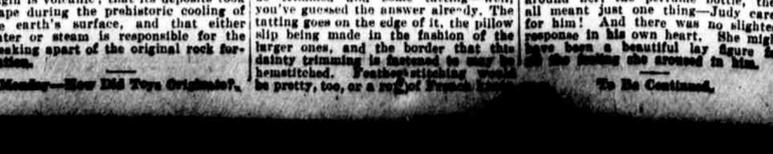
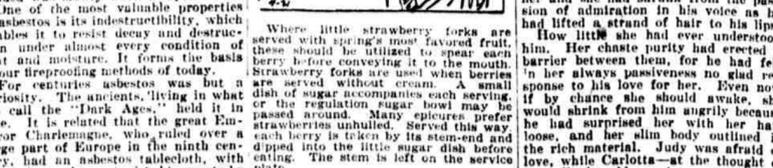
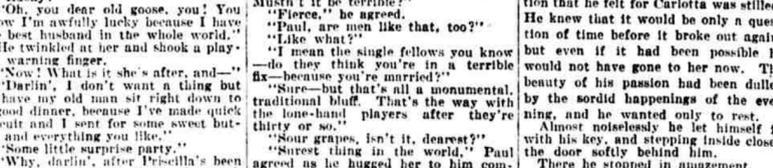
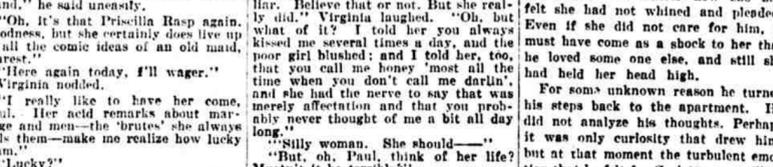
Remember The Name "SARAH D. LOWRIE" ITS STRENGTH, PURITY AND FRAGRANCE ARE UNEQUALED

THE Lunch Room Was Very Crowded, But There Were Two Who Didn't Know It For Them the Place Was Empty and Silent, for They Had Just Found Each Other and Could See No One Else

THE lunchroom was crowded with chattering luncheoners. There was an unbroken hum of voices which seemed to rise up and hang over the heads of the diners. What little pauses there might have been were effectually filled in with the rattle of fork against spoon, spoon against cup, lid against dish.

Occasionally an orchestra would make the confusion more rhythmic by pounding out a peppy selection of dance music. Not a table was unoccupied. Saturday, at noon, with all the shoppers and business people released from their labors and hastening to relieve that gnawing feeling amid more luxurious surroundings than usual.

IT was in the midst of it all that they were, those two, the radiant beauty who was Saturday at noon and she who had him all afternoon and Sunday, he, beaming because it was Saturday at noon and he could be with her all afternoon and Sunday.



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IT was in the midst of it all that they were, those two, the radiant beauty who was Saturday at noon and she who had him all afternoon and Sunday, he, beaming because it was Saturday at noon and he could be with her all afternoon and Sunday.

THEY were not like the jaded boy and girl who had so many advantages that they couldn't appreciate them and

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